extension activities respectively. For increasing export also, a target of 1,65,000 tonnes has been set, and 1,79,054 tonnes of coffee has been exported with a value realisation. All these things are designed to increase coffee production in non-traditional areas ...*(interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. That is finished now. Mr. Virumbi.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the United States and Europe, the choice and use of instant tea have been increasing. There is a widespread complaint in India that the contribution of instant tea export to the total tea export is not considerable, if we compare it with other important tea exporting countries. I want to know whether the Government has taken this issue seriously; if so, what action has been taken to improve the export of instant tea and what the percentage of instant tea export in the total tea export is, in terms of both value and volume.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, it is right that the liking for instant tea is increasing and Tea Board is taking steps to popularise instant tea, and also other forms of tea. Particularly after the liking in the western countries has changed, from cold tea to hot tea, the Tea Board has stepped up its activities to propagate these specialised items to the liking of the western countries, particularly Europe and America. So far as the quantity of instant tea export as part of the total tea export is concerned, the figures are not available. 1 will try to find them out and give them to the hon. Member.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, in the areas around the Kumaon region tea plantation are being done. I can assure you that there is little maintenance and care of the plants after the subsidy is taken. Instead of putting the money in, and getting the farmers to go in for a crop which is subject to such variations in prices and income all over the world, would it not be better to go in for, and spend the same scale of money, and give the same type of subsidy for rehabilitation and revival of medicinal plants of the Himalayas and encourage the fanners to go in for these? Instead of going in for a crop, which is a dying crop, which is subject to such enormous fluctuations, would it not be better to go in for this?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, though the question is not even remotely related to the present question, since the hon. Member has raised it, I appreciate his concern and the Government is alive to the situation. India has a great potential in terms of biodiversity and specifically in terms of medicinal plants and aromatic plants. In i terms of plant material, we have a total of 48,000 varieties of plants in India. This is eleven per cent of the total world heritage though our area is only two per cent. He is also right that the biodiversity is under stress. A lot of material is going out and they are becoming extinct. There are not efforts so far, and there have never been, to preserve and conserve this heritage. He is right is saying that we should promote the cultivation of medicinal plants and aromatic plants which have a vast potential not only in terms of producing for indigenous consumption but also in terms of exports. The Government is undertaking a large-scale programme—it is under my Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture—not only to conserve the biodiversity but also to utilise them for commercial production as commercial crops and the farmers are likely to be helped for this purpose. A novel experiment is being done in the State of Kerala at the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute, where they have identified several hundreds of varieties of such plants in Silent Valley. Similar institutions and organisations will be set up to take care of this biodiversity not only for conservation purposes but also for commercial utilisation.

**Non Payment of Minimum Wages in Madhya Pradesh**

*203. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the non-payment of the statutory minimum wages by the management of dolomite mines of Dhowiabhata near Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these mine owners also did not implement the agreement signed with the Union; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the statutory provision regarding wages and other service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

As per the Report received from the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Jabalpur inspection of the dolomite mines in Dhowra Bhata Mines in October, 1998 revealed that all the benefit available under labour laws including the minimum wages are extended to the workers of these mines and no instance of non-payment of minimum wages or non-implementation of any settlement is reported.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Mr. Vice- Chairman, Sir, he has not taken the responsibility of answering the question. He has simply reproduced the reply given by the Regional Libour Commissioner. He has not taken the responsibility of answering the question.

There are a number of dolomite mines around Bilaspur. The dolomite is supplied to the Bhilai Steel Plant. There was a dispute between the union and the contractors. All these mines are owned by the contractors. The Regional Labour Commissioner made a conciliation in the dispute. The dispute was that the contractors were not paying the minimum wages. They did not implement the Provident Fund law. They did not implement the ESI law. There was a conciliation. But a failure report was sent. Generally, in those cases a conciliation should not take place. This is a Central law. The Central Government should enforce the law. It is a violation of the law. It is a violation of the Act. Why should there be a conciliation? They had made a conciliation and then a failure report was sent. In the mean-time action has been taken against the union. Now in his reply he has stated, "As per the Report received from the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Jabalpur, inspection of the dolomite mines in Dhowra Bhata Mines in October, 1998, reveated that all the benefits available under labour laws including the minimum wages are extended to the workers of these mines". Then why is this view? Why is this failure report? The General Secretary of the CITU had written a letter on 15th September, 1998, to the Cheif Labour Commissioner (Central)

on this subject. Your Regional Labour Commissioner has said that there was no dispute at all. These people are robbers. When they send the reply, they don't even go through the files. Would the hon. Minister inquire into the matter? Would the Minister take action against the officials who have sent a wrong report?

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: माननीय सभापति जी,मैंने वास्तविक हालात बयान करने की कोशिश की है और जानकारी भी दी है कि अक्तूबर की स्थिति वह हैं । पर आज के मौजूदा हालात में स्थिति यह है कि वहां पर केवल एक माइन काम कर रही है और उस में लगभग 15 लोग काम कर रहे हैं। यह आज की 14 तारीख वास्तविक स्थिति आप के सामने हैं । मान्यवर,यह डोलोमाइट भिलाई स्टील प्लांट के उपयोग के लिए यहां से निकाला जाता था । अब भिलाई स्टील प्लांट की जिस प्रकार से मांग होगी,उसी प्रकार से उस में से डोलोमाइट निकालने का काम होगा । मान्यवर,वहां पर 7 खदाने काम कर रही है जिस में मोटे तौर पर आज की हालत में एक ही खदान काम कर रही है । जहां तक मिनिमम वेजेज का मामला है,मिनिमम वेज वहां पर है औ चूंकि यह सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अंतर्गत हैं,इसलिए उस में भी मिनिमम वेज़ का दायरा हम ने तय किया हुआ है ।इसी प्रकार में उन की बाकी की जो मांगे रही हैं,उस में वहां पर तीन यूनियनें काम कर रही हैं-छत्तीसगढ़ माईस श्रमिक संघ,मेटल माईस वर्कर्स यूनियन और लाल झंडा मजदूर यूनियन काम कर रही है । उस के बीच परस्पर

प्रतिस्पर्धा के कारण भी वहां अनेक प्रकार के विवाद होते रहे हैं,पंरतु आज के हालात में वहां केवल एक माइन काम कर रही है और उस में 10-15 मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, he has not replied to my question. Sir, I seek your protection. One mine might be working there. But there were many mines and wages are still due to the workers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to pay wages to the workers who have been working.

**श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया**: सभापति जी,वास्तव में जो मिनिमम वेज तय किया गया है,वह 42 रूपए हैं । यह सेंट्रल स्पेयर में आता है । इस के साथ ही वहां चूना भट्टी में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं,उन के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का मिनिमम वेज 58 रूपए हैं । किंतु वहां इन के मांगपत्र और यूनियनों के मांगपत्रों में,उन की 32 मांगों पर हर बात पर उन के बीच में समझौते हुए और अलग-अलग यूनियंस के समझौते हुए । मान्यवर,वहां पर सब से बड़ी यूनियन छत्तीसगढ़ माईस वर्कर्स यूनियन है और उन के अपने समझौते होते रहे । बोनस की मांग का समझौता होता रहा और वहां भी 20 प्रतिशत बोनस देने की मांग का समझौता हुआ । इस प्रकार से उन की 32 मांग का समझौता हुआ । इस प्रकार से उन की 32 मांगों पर अलग-अलग प्रकार के समझौते हुए । यह सारी जानकारी मेरे पास हैं,अगर आज इजाजत दें तो मैं उसे विस्तार से सदन के समक्ष रख सकता हूं ।

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, there is no question of agreement on minimum wages. They have to enforce the statutory laws. They may enter into an agreement on other matters. So far as the statutory laws are concerned, they have to enforce them. They have to pay the minimum wages. *(Interruptions).*

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: सभापति जी,मेरे पास जानकारी है और ..(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: So far as minimum wages are concerned, it was your Notification. You have to enforce it.

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: मुझे उस में कोई कठिनाई नहीं हो रही है । 7 अक्तूबर को भी इसी प्रकार सारा इंस्पेक्शन करने के लिए मजदूरों से बातचीत कर उन का जो अभिलेख,रिकॉर्ड किया गया था,उस से जो जानकारी प्राप्त की गयी थी,उस में मिनिमम वेज वहां पर हो रहा है,इस प्रकार की उन की अभिस्वीकृति मेरे पास मौजूद हैं और वहां जो लोग काम कर रहे हैं,उन्होंने लिखकर दिया है कि हमें वेवज वगैरा सब मिल रहा है । वह 7 अक्तूबर की स्थिति मेरे पास हैं ।

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I am sorry to say that the Government is protecting the contractors. They are flagrantly violating the existing laws. The Government is openly defending the contractors and saying that they are acting according to the law. The information which is available with us is totally different from the information supplied by the Government.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I have requested the Minister to inquire into the matter. This was my first supplementary. My second supplementary is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have already put two supplementaries. *(Interrputions).* Shri Radhakishan Malaviya.

**श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय** : माननीय सभापति महोदय,माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने मध्यप्रदेश के रीजनल कमिश्नर,जबलपुर की सूचना के आधार पर यह बताया के धौराभाटा स्थित डोलोमाइट खदान में कार्यरत मजदूरों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी सहित उपलब्ध सभी लाभ इन खदानों के कर्मकारों को लागू किए गए हैं,किंतु मै सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि धौराभाटा स्थित डोलोमाइट खान में कुल कितने मजदूर हैं,उन की प्रतिदिन न्यूनतम मजदूरी कितनी है और क्या इस खदान में डेली वेजेज़ पर जो कांट्रेक्स बेसिस पर भी मजदूर कार्य कर रहे हैं? अगर हां तो उन की संख्या कितनी है और उन को न्यूनतम मजदूरी का लाभ मिल रहा है या नहीं ?

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: माननीय सभापति जी,जैसाकि मैं बता चुका हूं,वहां पर आज की 14 तारीख की स्थिति में एक लाइन काम कर रही है और लगभग 15 मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं । जहां तक न्यूनतम मजदूरी जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का स्फेयर हैं,वह 42 रूपए तय गयी हैं,परंतु वहां पर हुए समझौते के आधार पर उन मजदूरों को भी 58 रूपए मजदूरी मिल रही हैं । यह जो हम सेंट्रल स्फेयर में तय करते हैं,उस में भी अधिक है । आप ने जो जानकारी चाही है और मेरे पास जो

जानकारी उपलब्ध हैं,उस के आधार पर मैं कह सकता हूं कि उन को न्यूनतम मजदूरी मिल रही हैं ।

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Sir, recently, our hon. Prime Minister had requested the State Governments demi-officially to review the cases and to revise the minimum rates of wages within a period not exceeding two years. I would like to know whether any State Government has complied with the request made by the Prime Minister of India, how many cases have been launched so far and how many cases have been convicted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This does not arise out of the main question. The question is relating to Madhy Pradesh specifically...

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: It is a general question...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee... *(Interruptions)* This question does not arise out of it. It should pertain to Madhya Pradesh only.

SHRI DIKPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is very simple. Knowing fully well that it is an industry friendly Government rather than labour friendly Government, my specific question to the Minister is: — it may lead to a question of privilege; I want to clearly say this — Is he going to assure this House that there has been to no violation of the statutory regulation, the statutory enactment of the non-payment of the minimum wages, in the dolomite mines. I want the answer, 'Yes' or 'No', and nothing else. Are you assuring us that there is no violation? Say, 'Yes' or 'No'.

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: मैंने जानकारी में दिया हैं कि वहां इन मर्यादाओं का पालन करने के लिए ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: The Chairman is very particular that no one should waste the time of the House. My question is whether there has been a violation of this Act...*(Interruptions)* You can very well say, 'No', there has been no violation...

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Sir, I may be given a chance. ..*(Interruption)*... वहां इंस्पेक्शन के आधार पर पाई जा रही इररेगुलरिटीज जिस में उन के वेजेज रजिस्टर ने रखने के कारण,उस का मस्टर रोल न रखने के बारे में जो अनियमितताएं पाई जा रही है और जो कानून तोड़े जा रहे हैं,उन के ऊपर प्रोसीक्यूशन और बाकी नियम के अंतर्गत कार्यवाही की जा रही है ।

**श्री सभापति**: इस का अर्थ है कि अनियमितताएं हो रही हैं?

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: अनियमितताएं जो-जो पाई जा रही है,उस के कारण...(**व्यवधान**)...

**श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी**: इस का मतलब है कि वायलेशन हो रहा हैं ।

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: वायलेशन होने पर कार्यवाही की जा रही है ...(**व्यवधान**)...बोल रहा हूं कि वायलेशन हो रहा है,उस पर कार्यवाही की जा रही है

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: You have not replied to my question. What exactly are you doing?

**श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी**: माननीय सभापति महोदय,यह मेरे जिले की बात है और मुझे खुशी है कि मजदूरों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी भुगतान होने की जानकारी मंत्री महोदय द्वारा दी गई है । मैं मंत्री महोदय सेयह जानना चाहता हूं कि आज की तारीख में,उनका कहना है कि कोई भुगतान बाकी नहीं है,लेकिन यदि ऐसी कोई शिकायत आती हैं कि इनके जवाब के बावजूद भी न्यूनतम न्यायपूरी का भुगतान मजदूरों को नहीं किया गया है तो ऐसी स्थिति में जो गलत जानकारी देने वाले अधिकारी है या जो वेतन बांटने वाले हैं,उनके खिलाफ कोई सख्त कार्यवाही आप करेंगे क्या ? और,करेंगे तो किस प्रकार की करेंगे ?

**डा.सत्यनारायण जटिया**: सभापति जी,मेरी जानकारी के आधार पर वायलेशन कोई नहीं हो रहा हैं और यदि इसमें वायलेशन की कोई जानकारी या शिकायत आती है तो उस पर जांच होकर कार्यवाही की जाएगी ।